# Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union

Student Forum Minutes

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| **Date** | 21.10.26 | **Time** | 15:00-17:00 |
| **Location** | DDM Seminar M | | |
| **Chaired By** | Chimdi Ekwe ,Maria Opoku, and Juna Sabu | | |
| **Attendees** | In person: 26 Online: 8 | | |
| **Minutes By** | Juna Sabu | | |

| # | Item | Information | Presented by |
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| **1** | Welcome and introduction | *"The Forum Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and outlining the ground rules for discussion and voting..."* | Maria |
| **2** | Current Union Priority Updates | **Background**<br>• These are the current Union Priorities, which were voted in at Forum last year<br>**Updates**<br>• **•Commit to supporting and representing students of colour -** working with acs to do showcase for black history month,host exhibition, art fair but low engagement<br>• **Neurodivergent students-**study pods at Falmouth campus, sensory bags for students to loan but not ATM because of the SU flood<br>• **AI-** will be followed up in Big Rep Meeting, more transparency, clarity. Toby attended bi-weekly AI meetings, working with universities to establish AI plans and policy<br>• **Trans student's right to exist as themselves-** A survey is being set up to identify key target areas for improvement and take those to the universities, as well as set up focus groups. | SAB |

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| | | Discussions are being had about Trans+ students' access to hardship funds.<br>• **Free Soup Friday -** Falmouth Campus also want it but since it is funded by Exeter scholars it is currently only able to run on Penryn.<br>• **Cheaper laundry –**talking with FXPlus ,profit ,what is being done with money<br><br>***Q&A***<br><br>• Asked about type of sensory equipment given – type of earbuds, awareness of what is available, DSA –what they can help with | Maria, Chimdi<br><br>Zee (attendee)<br><br>SAB<br><br>SAB |

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| **2** | Individual Sabbatical Officer Updates | **Updates**<br><br>**President Exeter –** secured 4k in funding for welcome period society +1k extra for academic societies, restructuring addressed, access to opportunity for Exeter students, working with Exeter Alumni network<br><br>**VP Exeter –** create a more social and welcoming campus ,increased opportunities, doing survey to gather feedback on events and connection which is being fed back to FX Plus, looking to gather further information on key areas for socialising and improving campus spaces<br><br>**VP Falmouth –** trying to get societies on Woodlane Campus created, hosted events on Falmouth Campus, will do this consistently, helping with international student representation in terms of building community. Look at budgets and Falmouth pantry –more outside seating at Woodlane | SAB |
| **4** | Voting Outcomes For CURRENT Union Priorities (if wanting to close/change | **No voting on current Union Priorities** | |
| **5** | Make a Change proposals | **No proposals have reached 10+ votes so it was discussion only**<br><br>•**Introduction of student clothing bank**- student member says if we have one it needs to be better advertised. Another student member raises a question around fairness – how it will it help those most in need of clothing bank? Another student compares this with foodbank in SU where people take what they need instead of what they want – could this work the same way? | |

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| | | **•Boycott the NSS survey in response to staff redundancy (Humanity dept.) –** student who submitted led a discussion on lack of transparency and the possibility higher education is being turned into business enterprise within Exeter University. Other students unaware about boycott and impact of NSS change, ask questions to clarify. One student asks whether it would be helpful or not if Falmouth students boycotted NSS even though redundancies are happening at Exeter. Proposer clarifies that their original proposal was targeted at Exeter rather than Falmouth. PC reads out statement on TH's behalf, highlighting work he had done with senior university staff to secure funding to build community in Cornwall and mitigate some of the impacts of the cuts. TH was concerned that boycotting NSS and producing poor results would negatively impact lecturers and lead to further cuts to departments that scored poorly rather than improving the situation. PC also argued that NSS provides the SU with valuable data which enables them to effectively advocate for students. Proposer says that they are aware of some staff who know about NSS boycott idea and would not be opposed to it even if their department scored lower. A student member (Penryn) suggests that the SU could run its own surveys asking key questions so they can get the data without NSS. PC says they do run surveys but the detail and response rate isn't as good or useful as NSS. Another student member (Penryn) explains they are a Falmouth student but they feel sometimes you need to do something truly disruptive to make senior executives pay attention and make change. PC and MO remind participants that the proposal will not be voted on today and that we have other items to discuss. Facilitators remind participants than any student can vote on Make a | |

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| | | Change online or submit their own idea. Process of submitting Make a Change is explained.<br><br>•**Bring cash back –** make ATMs more accessible, lack of banks nearby, students should have the option for both, make awareness | |
| **4** | Voting Outcomes | **No voting this time as no proposals have reached the minimum 10 upvotes** | |
| **5** | EXEC proposals | **Renewing and removing old Agreed Actions**<br><br>**Background/Presentation Summary**<br><br>• Agreed Actions expire after 3 years unless renewed<br>• Student body is changing all the time and will have different priorities<br>• Officers have limited time and resource, so want to make sure what they're working on is relevant<br>**Discussion points**<br><br><u>Executive proposal :</u><br><br>Remove mural (25/26)<br><br>Keep Cash on campus (23/24)<br><br>Keep gender neutral bathrooms (24/25)<br><br>%of online events clubs,societies should match society events –keep (24/25)<br><br>Stop charging for amata-remove (24/25)<br><br>Endorsement for ecosia (24/25)-remove<br><br>Calisthenics-remove(25/26)<br><br>Bike shelter-remove (23/24)<br><br>Unecessary lighting on campus (24/25)-remove<br><br>Wider sanitary products 25/26-remove<br><br>**<u>Student points</u>**<br>• Students mainly concerned about lighting. PC highlights that there is a different agreed action which is about increasing lighting on campus | SAB |

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| | | which contradicts this action. Student member (Penryn) says they would like more lighting for safety reasons. Another student (Penryn) suggests the issue needs more nuance than the current agreed action allows – reducing light pollution is important but so is safety. Another student member (Penryn) suggests calling for motion sensor lighting to be installed to provide a solution addressing both needs. PC and facilitators suggest putting in a Make a Change around sensor lighting.<br>• Student member questions the bike storage agreed action and asks whether it relates to motorbike storage. Falmouth student members highlight that while bike storage has improved at Penryn, bike storage on Falmouth Campus has lots of issues.<br>• Students vote to remove and keep all proposed Agreed Actions. Students vote to amend the bike storage Agreed Action to focus on improving storage at Falmouth Campus and keep this amended action. | |
| **4** | Voting Outcomes | **No voting** | |
| **6** | Summary | FF Summarised the Meeting:<br>• Agreed Actions updates were passed, with members deciding to amend and keep the bike storage AA to focus on improving provision at Falmouth Campus | Maria, Chimdi |
| **7** | AOB and Close | **Any Other Business**<br>• Quiet study zones in library, concerns about loud noise<br>• No left-handed desks in lecture halls – accessibility concerns<br>• University of Exeter students cannot use Falmouth library even if we are able do due to problems with library card – PC advises student to email presidents@thesu.org.uk so | Maria, Chimdi |

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| | | sabbs can speak to relevant departments about this<br>• Use of AI transparency, Turnitin used to mark AI use is using student work to train LLMs, want university to look into it – PC says that sabbs are speaking to both universities. Exeter does not allow Turnitin to use student data but this is subject to change next year when their contract runs out so they are reviewing this.<br>**Close**<br>• The meeting concluded with free pizza provided to attendees to encourage informal discussion and community engagement. | |
| **8** | Date of next meeting | 2/12/26 | |